



I WAS AN ONLY CHILD, RAISED BY MY DAD AFTER MY MOTHER DIED WHEN I WAS SIX.

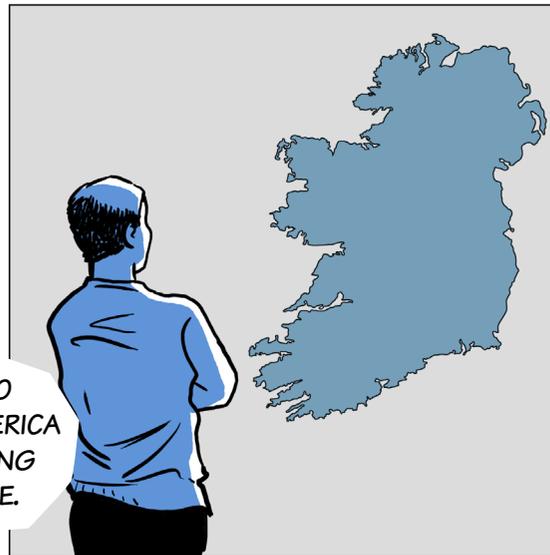


I CAME OUT AS A GAY MAN AT 21 AND DUBLIN AT THAT POINT WAS STILL PRETTY CONSERVATIVE.

IT WAS NOT AN EASY CITY TO WORK OUT ISSUES OF "WHO YOU ARE" IF YOU WERE DIFFERENT FROM THE NORM.



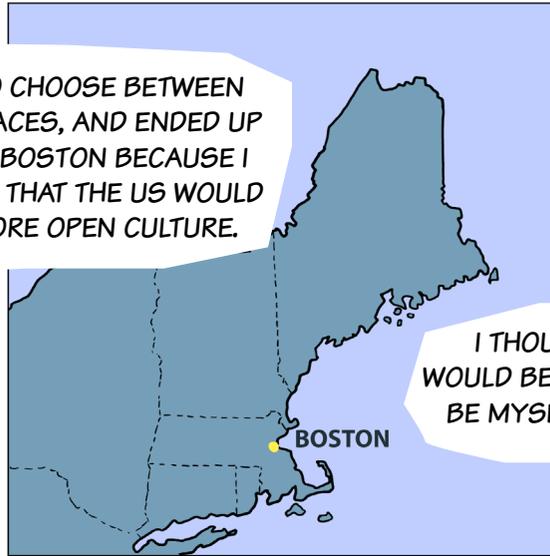
I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE MY STUDIES IN AMERICA AND HAD TO DECIDE IF LEAVING IRELAND WAS RIGHT FOR ME.



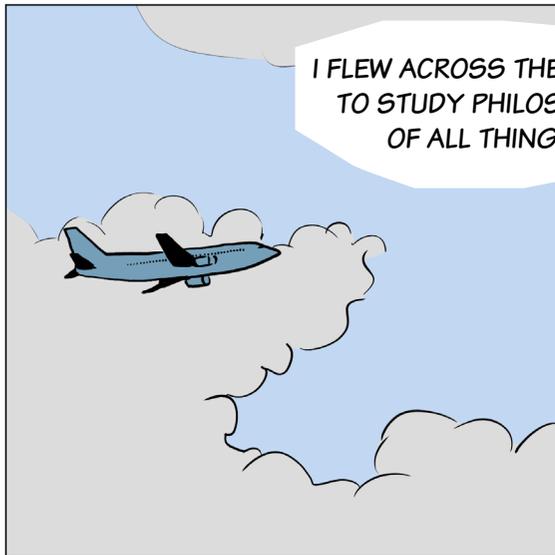
LUCKILY IT WAS!



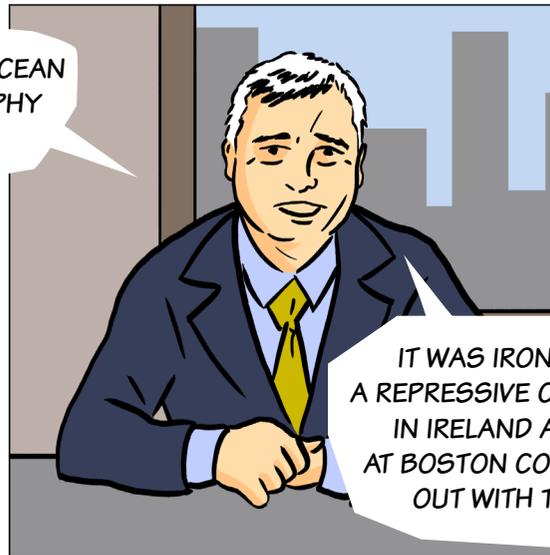
I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A FEW PLACES, AND ENDED UP PICKING BOSTON BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT THE US WOULD BE A MORE OPEN CULTURE.



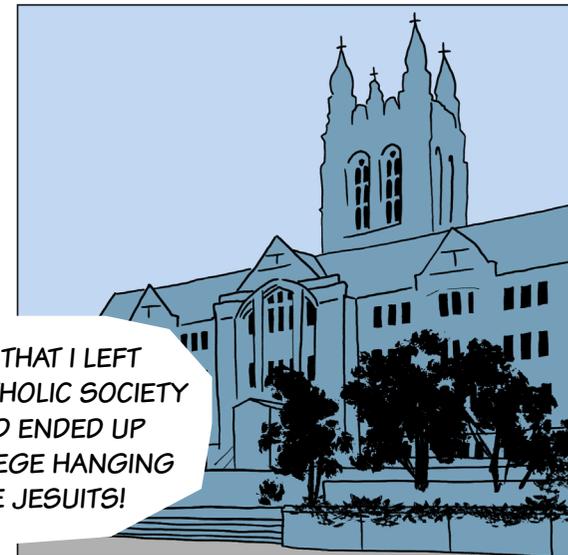
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO BE MYSELF HERE.



I FLEW ACROSS THE OCEAN TO STUDY PHILOSOPHY OF ALL THINGS.



IT WAS IRONIC THAT I LEFT A REPRESSIVE CATHOLIC SOCIETY IN IRELAND AND ENDED UP AT BOSTON COLLEGE HANGING OUT WITH THE JESUITS!





DURING MY FIRST WINTER
HERE ALL I COULD THINK WAS
"WHAT IS ALL THIS SNOW?!?"

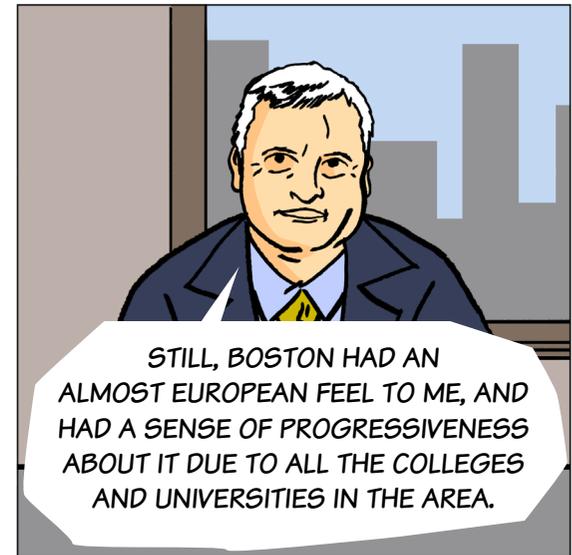
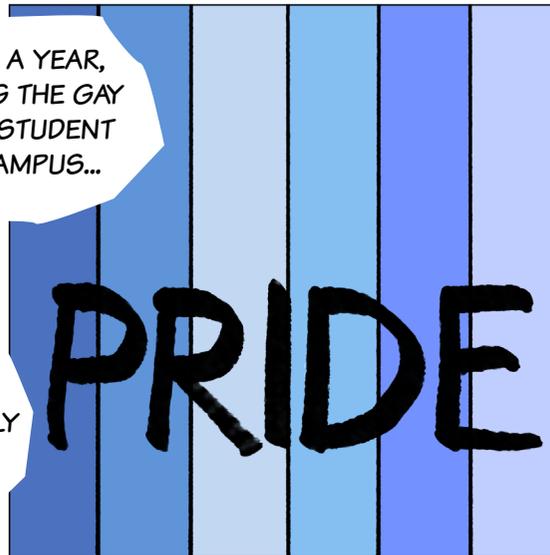


I WAS ALSO TERRIFIED
BY DRIVING ON THE
OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE
ROAD THAN WE DID
BACK IN IRELAND!

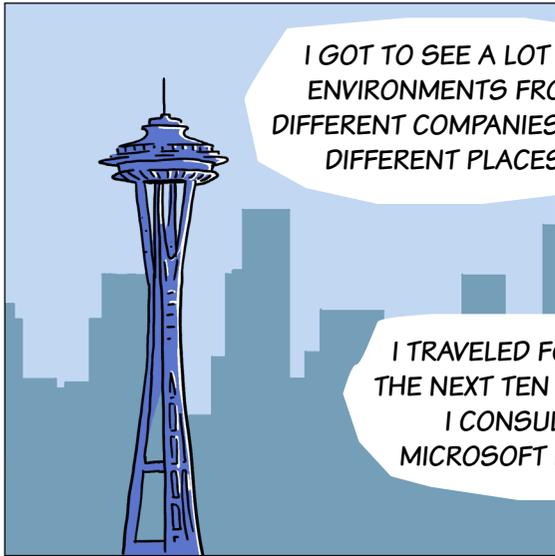


AT BC, WITHIN A YEAR,
I WAS RUNNING THE GAY
AND LESBIAN STUDENT
GROUP ON CAMPUS...

EVEN THOUGH WE
WERE NOT OFFICIALLY
RECOGNIZED BY
THE SCHOOL.



STILL, BOSTON HAD AN
ALMOST EUROPEAN FEEL TO ME, AND
HAD A SENSE OF PROGRESSIVENESS
ABOUT IT DUE TO ALL THE COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE AREA.



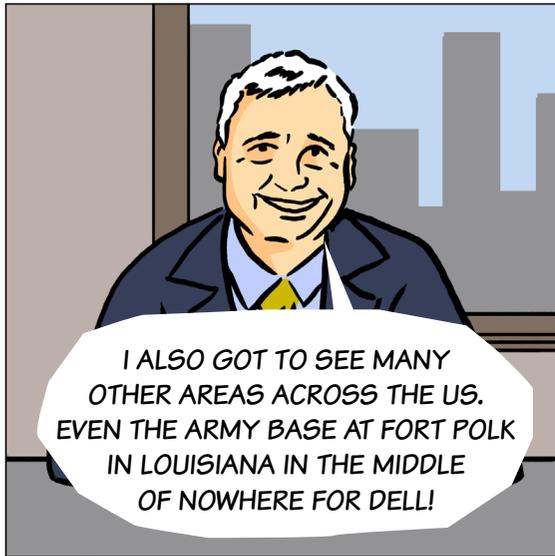
I GOT TO SEE A LOT OF ENVIRONMENTS FROM DIFFERENT COMPANIES AND DIFFERENT PLACES.



I TRAVELED FOR CLOSE TO THE NEXT TEN YEARS OR SO. I CONSULTED FOR MICROSOFT IN SEATTLE...



AND WELLS FARGO IN SAN FRANCISCO...



I ALSO GOT TO SEE MANY OTHER AREAS ACROSS THE US. EVEN THE ARMY BASE AT FORT POLK IN LOUISIANA IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE FOR DELL!



AND I FOUND IT FASCINATING BECAUSE WHEN YOU SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH PEOPLE, NO ONE REALLY CARED ABOUT WHO I WAS OR WHERE I CAME FROM... EVERYONE TOOK YOU AS YOU CAME.



